



To President Robbyn Wacker
St Cloud State University

May 1st, 2023

Dear President Wacker,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. We were concerned to find out that your institution is considering phasing out the graduate program in Marriage and Family Therapy as part of a larger initiative to address a financial deficit at St Cloud State University.

Minnesota has been, and continues to be, a state with a strong presence of marriage and family therapists (MFTs). However, as demand for mental health services, including family therapy services, increases, we are worried that the numbers of MFTs is decreasing due to both people retiring and to graduate programs closing. As I am sure you are aware, the MFT program at your institution is the last Masters program for Marriage and Family Therapy to be based at a State University within Minnesota. We are concerned that if you were to close this program, there will no longer be any State Universities offering a graduate degree in Marriage and Family Therapy within our state. This would not only impact our profession but also the communities we serve. We are also concerned that no longer having any State University based MFT programs will decrease the diversity in our field even further.

While we appreciate your challenge and the need to address the financial deficit that your institution is facing, we believe that our field has growth potential, as you can see in information

from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, which projects a growth rate of 14% over the next few years:

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/marriage-and-family-therapists.htm>

We believe this growth might even increase now that MFTs will finally be able to accept Medicare starting in January 2024.

We ask you to keep the graduate program in Marriage and Family Therapy open at St Cloud State University to ensure that future MFTs still have access to a State University based program and for the sake of our field and the communities we serve.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Iantaffi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Alex Iantaffi

President of the Board of Directors of the
Minnesota Association for Marriage and Family Therapy